

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MED-02 AID-05 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 HEW-04 IO-13 USIA-06 PA-01
PRS-01 DODE-00 DHA-02 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-03
H-01 /066 W

-----130901Z 016194 /14

O R 130741Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2117
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 1783

BELGRADE FOR ROMO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO
SUBJ: BUCHAREST HEALTH SERVICES, FIVE DAYS POST EARTHQUAKE

1. THE HEALTH SERVICES OF BUCHAREST, ROMANIA WERE EVAL-
UATED ON THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DAYS AFTER THE EARTH-
QUAKE, WHICH HAD BEEN ON MARCH 4, 1977. THE
SURVEY WAS MADE BY DR DEAL L. HUTCHINS, THE
REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER FROM BELGRADE, AND MR.
SIGNEY SMITH, THE SCIENCE ATTACHE FROM EMBASSY
BUCHAREST. TEXT OF REPORT FOLLOWS.

2. DISCUSSIONS WERE FIRST HELD AT THE MINISTRY
OF HEALTH WITH FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER A. CALOMFIRESCU.
THE MEETING WAS FRIENDLY BUT SOMEHWAT GUARDED.
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IMPLIED THAT OF THE IMMEDIATE
PROBLEMS, EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WERE
ADEQUATE FOR BOTH THE INJURED AND THE REGULAR
PATIENTS. THEY ALSO STATED THEY HAD ADEQUATE PER-
SONNEL. A DECISION TO ACCEPT THE UNITED STATES
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GOVERNMENT OFFER OF DRY FAT MILK WAS DELAYED.
(LATER ACCEPTED.) WE REQUESTED TO SEE SPECIFIC
HOSPITALS E.G. THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL,
THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, AND THE ORTHOPEDIC HOS-
PITAL, AS A PREREQUISITE TO POTENTIAL AID
FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE APPROVAL
TO VISIT SOME HOSPITALS CAME THROUGH BUT TO ONLY ONE

OF THE SPECIFIC HOSPITALS THAT WE HAD REQUESTED. (PARADOXICALLY, JOURNALISTS REPORTED VISITING MANY OF THESE SAME HOSPITALS AND ENCOUNTERED NO DELAYS OR OBSTACLES.) WE VISITED THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT ON THE APPROVED LIST. IT IS OF INTEREST THAT THE HOSPITAL WAS BEING EVACUATED OF ITS CONTENTS, CONTRARY TO WHAT WE HAD BEEN TOLD BY MINHLTH.

3. THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL WAS A 600-PLUS BED RELATIVELY MODERN FACILITY DESIGNED TO TAKE CARE OF ACUTE EMERGENCIES AS WELL AS GENERAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. IT HAD BEEN COMPLETELY EVACUATED OF PATIENTS THE NIGHT OF THE EARTHQUAKE. WE WERE ESCORTED AROUND THE HOSPITAL BY THE CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR WHO IS A CARDIOLOGIST BY PROFESSION. WE VISITED THE CARDIAC CARE UNIT WHICH HAD HAD ABOUT 16 BEDS EQUIPPED WITH CARDIAC MONITORING FACILITIES. WE WERE TOLD THAT MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN DESTROYED. THIS WAS A PLAUSIBLE STORY SINCE ONE SIDE OF THE UNIT HAD FALLEN INTO THE STREET. THE OPERATING ROOMS AND X-RAY ROOMS IN THIS HOSPITAL WERE DAMAGED. MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT LOOKED IN GOOD CONDITION.

4. THE EMILIA ERZA CHILDRENS HOSPITAL (THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED BEDS) HAD SOME CRACKS IN THE WALLS BUT HAD NOT BEEN EVACUATED. THE HOSPITAL CONTINUED TO FUNCTION AS USUAL. THEY DID NOT RECEIVE ANY OF THE INJURED CHILDREN OR OTHER PATIENTS FROM THE EARTHQUAKE. THEY HAD SOME EMPTY BEDS AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TIME OF OUR VISIT. THEY DID REQUEST UNOFFICIALLY THAT WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WHICH WERE NEEDED BUT WERE NOT RELATED TO THE EARTHQUAKE. THESE INCLUDED INFANT INCUBATORS, PH METERS, BLOOD GAS EQUIPMENT, DISPOSABLE SCALP VEIN NEEDLES WITH ATTACHED POLYETHELENE TUBING, PEDIATRIC ORAL IRON, VITAMIN D AND DISINFECTANTS FOR WASHING CONTAMINATED ROOMS.

5. THE FUNDENI HOSPITAL WAS VISITED. THIS IS A LARGE 1500-BED CAPACITY FACILITY WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO A NEW AND OLD SECTION. THIS HOSPITAL IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST IN ROMANIA. IT WAS USED AS A RESEARCH AND NATIONAL REFERRAL CENTER FOR THE MORE COMPLICATED PROBLEMS. IT HAD FACILITIES FOR DOING OPEN HEART SURGERY, CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION, RADIO ISOTOPES ETC. THE OLD SECTION OF THE HOSPITAL HAD BEEN EVACUATED OF ITS PATIENTS AND MOST OF ITS EQUIPMENT. THE NEW SECTION OF THE FUNDENI HOSPITAL WAS DAMAGED EXTENSIVELY BUT WAS STRUCTURALLY ADEQUATE TO USE. IT HAD ABOUT 800 PATIENTS,

MOST OF WHOM WERE NOT RELATED TO THE EARTHQUAKE. THERE WAS A WELL-EQUIPPED MODERN 4-BED INTENSIVE CARE UNIT IN THIS NEW SECTION OF THE HOSPITAL. THREE OF THESE BEDS WERE EMPTY. THERE WERE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF DOCTORS AND NURSES IN THIS UNIT WHO DID NOT APPEAR TO BE BUSY.

6. THE CARDIAC LABORATORY IN THE FUNDENI HOSPITAL WHERE THE CATHERIZATIONS, ANGIOGRAPHY, ETC ARE PERFORMED WAS DESTROYED. THE CEILING HAD FALLEN ON THE EQUIPMENT. THE EQUIPMENT IN THIS AREA HAD COST NEARLY \$500,000 IN 1972.

7. THE ENDOSCOPY ROOM IN THIS SAME HOSPITAL WAS ALSO DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE NEW FIBER OPTICS EQUIPMENT. THE COMPLETE SPECIFIC NEEDS IN THE FUNDENI HOSPITAL WERE UNKNOWN, BUT THOSE IN THE CARDIAC AND ENDOSCOPY AREAS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUITE OBVIOUS.

8. THE P&T HOSPITAL WHICH IS AN OLD APPROX 200-BED FACILITY HAD ABOUT 40 CASUALTY PATIENTS FROM THE EARTHQUAKE. MOST OF THESE WERE EITHER BURN CASES OR SUPERFICIAL INJURIES OF THE EXTREMITIES. I WAS TOLD BY THE PLASTIC SURGEON WHO WAS TAKING CARE OF THE BURN PATIENTS AT THIS HOSPITAL THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST 100 BURN PATIENTS AT ANOTHER HOSPITAL. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO STATE IF HE KNEW OF ANY MORE. THE SAME DOCTOR REQUESTED AGAIN UNOFFICIALLY THE FOLLOWING ITEMS: PIG SKIN FOR GRAFTING OF BURNS, PYOPEN GENTAMYCIN, SUFAMYLON, ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT AND BIRD RESPIRATORS.

9. CONTRARY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH STATEMENT THAT ALL OF THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARE ADEQUATE, I BELIEVE THERE ARE AND WILL BE SHORTAGES OF SUPPLIES FOR EXAMPLE SUFAMYLON, GENTAMYCIN,

DRESSING ETC.

10. EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES WHICH PROBABLY WILL BE NEEDED DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS ARE LISTED BELOW ALONG WITH THE ESTIMATED DATES OF NEEDS AND ESTIMATED AMOUNTS. IT SHOULD BE REALIZED THAT THE SURVEY WAS MADE ON A BIASED GROUP OF HOSPITALS SELECTED BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

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PRS-01 DODE-00 DHA-02 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-03
H-01 /066 W

-----131301Z 016878 /44

O R 130741Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2118
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 1783

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMITTED CAPTION
END OF MESSAGE

BELGRADE FOR RMO

ITEMS NEEDED	DATE NEEDED	AMOUNT NEEDED
1. MEDICAL COTTON	1 TO 2 MONTHS	20 CASES
2. BANDAGES	1 TO 2 MONTHS	50 CASES
3. DRESSING	1 TO 2 MONTHS	50 CASES
4. PYOPEN	2 TO 4 WEEKS	50,000 VIALS
5. KEFLIN	2 TO 4 WEEKS	30,000 VIALS
6. KEFLEX	2 TO 4 WEEKS	50,000 CAPSULES
7. GENTAMICIN	2 TO 4 WEEKS	10,000 VIALS
8. SULFAMYLOX	2 TO 4 WEEKS	400 POUNDS
&9. PEDIATRIC ORAL IRON	2 TO 6 MONTHS	
&10. VITAMIN D	2 TO 6 MONTHS	
&11. SCALP NEEDLES AND RUBING	1 TO 2 MONTHS	5,000
12. PIG SKIN	1 TO 3 WEEKS	INDEFINITE
13. DISPOSABLE SYRINGES	1(59 '2 MONTHS	INDEFINITE
AND NEEDLES		
14. MEDICINES LISTED ON THE		
REQUEST FROM THE MINISTRY OF		
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HEALTH ARE PARTIALLY INCLUDED
IN THE ABOVE LIST.
& UNRELATED TO THE EARTHQUAKE

11. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE A PRELIMINARY LIST OF
SOMEWHAT SOPHISTICATED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS

DESTROYED DURING THE EARTHQUAKE. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REPLACE THESE ITEMS BEFORE A SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT AND/OR RESEARCH USE CAN RESUME IN THE SPECIALTY AREAS.

ITEMS	DATE NEEDED	AMOUNT
1. FIXED CARDIAC MONITORS	3 TO 6 MONTHS	16 UNITS
2. MOBILE CARDIAC MONITORS	1 TO 3 MONTHS	4
3. CARDIAC DEFIBULATORS	1 TO 3 MONTHS	4
4. EKG MACHINES	1 TO 3 MONTHS	4
5. ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT	2 TO 6 WEEKS	4
6. BIRD RESPIRATORS	2 TO 6 WEEKS	4
7. COMPLETE CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION LAB	3 TO 6 MONTHS	1
8. ENDOSCOPY ROOM WITH FIBEROPTIC EQUIPMENT	3 TO 6 MONTHS	1
9. PEDIATRIC INCUBATORS	3 TO 6 MONTHS	6

&(UNRELATED TO THE EARTHQUAKE)

12. THE EQUIPMENT LISTED ON THE REQUEST FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS BEEN PARTIALLY INCLUDED ABOVE. I DO NOT SEE A NEED FOR VEHICLES FOR THE PRESENT EMERGENCY. THE NEURO-SURGICAL AND ORTHOPEDIC EQUIPMENT LISTED ON THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S REQUEST ARE PROBABLY NEEDED BUT OUR SURVEY DID NOT COVER THIS AREA DUE TO LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. THE AMOUNTS OF SUPPLIES ARE A VERY ROUGH ESTIMATE IN TURN BASED ON A VERY ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INJURED. IT SHOULD BE USED AS GUIDELINES RATHER THAN HARD FIXED NUMBERS.

13. IN SUMMARY, THE HEALTH SERVICES IN BUCHAREST WERE EVALUATED ON THE 4TH AND 5TH DAYS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE. MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND DIRECTORS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SELECTED BUCHAREST HOSPITALS. THE IMMEDIATE HEALTH SERVICES APPEAR "ADEQUATE" UNDER LOCAL CONDITIONS. ABOUT 1/3 OF THE HOSPITAL IN-PATIENT FACILITIES WERE DESTROYED. THERE ARE EMPTY BEDS IN SOME HOSPITALS WHICH WE VISITED. INSPECTION OF INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS HAVE REVEALED SPECIFIC LOSSES AND/OR DEFICIENCIES. THERE APPEAR TO BE SOME DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED. A LIST OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN MADE REFLECTING A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF WHAT IS WANTED AND/OR IS NEEDED AS OF THIS DATE. THERE WILL BE MANY MORE ITEMS ADDED TO THE LIST WHEN A COMPLETE INVENTORY OF ROMANIAN LOSSES CAN BE MADE. FURTHER EVALUATION OF THEIR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH A SUPPLY SPECIALIST IN THE RESPECTIVE FIELDS. A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. GUIDELINES SHOULD BE OBTAINED AS TO HOW MUCH THE US GOVT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE. A REVISED REQUEST LIST SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN ABOUT ONE WEEK. (DICTATED BUT NOT READ BY:) DEAN L. HUTCHINS, MD

REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
BELGRADE
DATED MARCH 11, 1977

DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, DISASTER RELIEF, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, NATURAL DISASTERS, EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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